--- 20 Cigarettes - tall format - “Royal Canadian Tobacco” - [4-50E] - 1940-42 ---

When the wartime Budget of September 1939 increased the excise duty on *small cigarettes* from $ 4.00 to $ 5.00 per thousand the companies, endeavouring to maintain an even 20¢ price level on their brands, reduced their packages by one cigarette per pack of ten or major fraction thereof. The pre-war 20¢ pack thus became *eighteen* cigarettes and production of twenty cigarettes temporarily ceased.

The Budget of June 24th 1940 increased the excise duty on *small cigarettes* from $ 5.00 to $ 6.00 per thousand and the companies resumed manufacture of twenty cigarettes for sale *across Canada* at 25¢.

The Province of Quebec, on July 1st 1940, had enacted a flat 10% tobacco tax adding an additional 3¢ to the retail on twenty cigarettes. Early in 1941 in response to Quebec dealer’s complaints about the odd 28¢ price, the manufacturers introduced *twenty-two* cigarettes, which with the 10% Quebec and all federal taxes included, sold *in Quebec* at 30¢.

★**RC-396** - 20 cigarettes, imperf, coded **4-50E / C.F. 2** by “Royal Canadian Tobacco” in June 1942

--- the cancellation reads horizontally upright - 3 copies to date ---

[★RC-396]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1941	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	**B.K.1**	---
1942	---	---	**C.C.2**	---	---	**C.F.2**	---	---	---	---	---	---

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File path is [c:\ MS - STAMPS \ RC_STAMPS \ 1935 - Series C \ 20 cigarettes \ 4-50E - tall format],
In MS Word 2007 for Windows 7,
Formatted for a HP CP 1525 Laser Jet,
December 26th 2013, JBH